Fishes Affected by Unknown Disease in Kerala

[*English*]

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1191. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN
SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fish disease experts have identified the unknown disease which has affected the fish species in Vembanad lake the canals and ponds surrounding the lake in Kerala;

(b) if so, the cause for this disease; and

(c) the estimated loss due to this disease and the remedial measures taken so far and further steps proposed to be taken to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Instt., Barrackpore and Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture, Madras have identified the fish disease in Kerala backwaters as Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (E.U.S.). The causative factors of this disease are suspected to be bacterial, viral and fungal in origin, associated with environmental degradation in the affected area due to pollution.

(c) Government of Kerala have estimated a loss of about Rs. 19.8 crores. Various measures suggested to contain the disease are (i) treatment of the affected managable water areas with lime and salt, (ii) Treatment of affected fish with potassium permagnate and (iii) to maintain hygenic condition in open waters.

Production of LPG

1192. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn any plan to increase the production of LPG, and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). It is proposed to increase the LPG production in the country through setting up of new production units and augmenting the production in the existing units.

Prices of Petrol and Petroleum Products

1193. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the prices of petrol and other petroleum products have been increased during the last two years; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The prices of petrol and some other petroleum products have been increased three times during the last two years.

(b) Any change in the prices of petroleum products is made by the Government, keeping in view supplies, growth in demand and other socio-economic factors.

Diamond Processing Units

1194. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Diamond processing units in the country both in private and public sector;

(b) whether some of those units are in a deplorable condition at present;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to remove the bottlebeck in those units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of Indira Sagar Project

1195. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some prominent environmental scientists have advised the Government to stop the implementation of the Indira Sagar Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Voluntary organisations, including environmentalists, have been protesting against the construction of the Narmada Sagar Project, minly on grounds of rehabilitation and environmental issues. The State Government, which is implementing the project has drawn up a detailed programme for environmental safeguard measures and for rehabilitation of the project affected people. Narmada Control Authority has been directed to monitor the progress in respect of these measures.

Mines and Metal Plants in Maharashtra

1196. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the mines in Maharashtra and the number of metal plants already set up there;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to expand these plants; and

(c) if so, the time bound programme thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) As per information received from Govt. of Maharashtra, there are 280 mining leases for major minerals in the State of Maharashtra. The details are given in the Statement attached.

A total of 10 metal plants have been set up in the State of Maharashtra, out of these, 6 plants are for production of ferro-alloys and 1 is a sintaring plant for producing manganese sinters from fines.

(b) and (c). Expansion of three ferro-manganess units has already been taken up in the recent past. Proposals are being worked out for expansion of the ferro-manganese plant of Maharashtra Electro-smelt Limited during 9th Plan. There is no plan at present for expansion of the manganese sintering plant.

List of mining leases for major minerals existing in the State of Maharashtra

Sl. No.	*Mineral*	*No. of Mining Leases*
1.	Manganese ore	38
2.	Coal	34
3.	Iron ore	38
4.	Limestone	42
5.	Bauxite	8